(b) whether funds have been allocated for the purpose and the package put into operation and if so, from which date;

(c) whether the promoters and managament propose to sell surplus land of the undetaking at token price;

(d) the location of such land and the final position in this regard; and

(e) what have been the losses of this undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Revival Package for Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) was approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on the 10th February, 1994. The revival plan is for 10 years beginning from 1994-95. The revival plan, inter alia; envisages capital restructuring inolving write-off off overdue interest, penal interest, conversion of term loan given by the Government into equity; restructuring of the business of the company; higher production and sales targets. cost reduction including reduction in excess manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) etc. The cost of revival, as per the approved revival package, is Rs. 143 crores.

(b) Fresh financial assistance, as envisaged in the approved plan from the Government, was to be released in 1993-94 and 1994-95. The funds have been released. The revival plan has been put into operation from 1994-95.

(c) and (d) In terms of the approved package, resources to the tune of about Rs.23 crores are to be generated through sale|disposal of surplus land|assets. The surplus land of the company are at Gurgaon (Haryana) and Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh). The sale of surplus land has not materialised in 1994-95.

(e) The accumulated losses of IDPL upto 31-3-95 are about Rs. 572 crores (unaudited).

Monopoly control of plant material

8369. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether amendments in the patent Act, 1970 would lead to monopoly control of plant materials, drugs and pharmaceuticals;

(b) what introduction of product patents in these areas will prevent Indian companies using other processes to manufacture drugs at lower costs than the prices at which global corporations sell them the same; and

(c) whether this along will push up drug prices beyond people's reach due to emergence of import monopolies preventing technology transfer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The WTO Agreement provides a transition period of 10 years to countries like India to delay the application of the provisions on product patent protection to areas of technology not so protectable in their territories on 1-1-1995.

There will no impact of the TRIPS Agreement on the prices of the existing drugs in the market whether patented or non-patented. The impact of the TRIPs Agreement on the drugs patented after 1-1-1995 will depend on a number of factors, including the nature of the availability of the repeutic equivalent substitute non patented drugs in the market licensing and marketing strategies adopted by the patent holders, including the option of local manufacturing and the general scenario that might be prevailing in the inter-national market.

Drugs allowed for marketing

8370. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of drugs being allowed for marketing on 30th April, 1995;